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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Toshitaka Shibata et al.

Serial No.

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Examiner

Tamiko D. Bellamy

February 18, 2004

Mail Stop Patent Application Amendment/3-Month Extension Commissioner for Patents United States Patent and Trademark Office P.O Box 1450

Washington, D.C. 22313-1450

AMENDMENT & RESPONSE

Sir:

The following Amendment & Response is responsive to the Office Action dated August 20, 2003 for the above-identified patent application. This Amendment and Response is accompanied by a Petition for Extension of Time, extending the response date up to and including February 20, 2004. Accordingly this Amendment and Response is timely filed.